



# COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 23, 2020

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Conditions continued to deteriorate due to extreme heat and worsening drought, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Northeastern counties received isolated moisture last week, but was not enough to improve local conditions. A county report indicated producers were noting more failure of non-irrigated crops due to drought including millet, corn, and sorghum. Heavy culling of cattle due to limited native grass availability was noted along with calves sold earlier than usual. Producers were providing supplemental feed to livestock where alternative grazing arrangements were unavailable. Concerns remained regarding irrigation water supplies holding out for the remainder of the growing season. In east central counties, spotty precipitation was received last week, but most areas remained hot and very dry. Corn silage harvest continued. A county report noted non-irrigated corn was being cut and baled instead of left for grain since few ears were produced this year. Southwestern counties received little moisture last week and multiple wildfires continued to burn. Severe drought conditions continued to persist in the district. In the San Luis Valley, barley harvest progressed quickly amidst dry conditions. Livestock were being moved from mountain pasture and stock water supplies were notably short. Limited potato harvest began for a few producers last week, but most were still killing potato vines. Conditions remained very dry. In southeastern counties, limited moisture was received but county reports noted more was needed to sustain crops and native pasture. Irrigation water supplies continued to lessen. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 31 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 70 percent average and 30 percent light. Cattle death loss was 85 percent average and 15 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested .....	42	24	39	44
Barley				
Harvested .....	61	22	36	44
Corn				
Doughed.....	70	55	50	62
Dented.....	23	12	8	19
Harvested for silage .....	6	2	8	6
Dry edible beans				
Blooming .....	98	93	93	NA
Cut .....	1	--	--	5
Onions				
Harvested .....	4	2	--	10
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested .....	3	1	NA	NA
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested .....	5	--	8	12
Sorghum				
Headed .....	86	76	87	87
Turning color .....	16	5	6	23

NA – not available  
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.9	7.0	6.4	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	39	38	5	5
Short .....	44	42	17	21
Adequate .....	17	20	74	71
Surplus.....	--	--	4	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	43	43	2	6
Short .....	42	36	18	21
Adequate .....	15	21	77	71
Surplus.....	--	--	3	2

NA – not available  
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor .....	10	7	4	3
Poor.....	18	14	5	8
Fair.....	20	22	10	21
Good .....	45	48	60	55
Excellent .....	7	9	21	13
Barley				
Very poor .....	1	--	2	NA
Poor.....	3	1	5	NA
Fair.....	19	22	23	NA
Good .....	52	58	50	NA
Excellent .....	25	19	20	NA
Corn				
Very poor .....	19	14	--	1
Poor.....	18	14	2	5
Fair.....	24	26	14	19
Good .....	32	36	59	61
Excellent .....	7	10	25	14
Dry edible beans				
Very poor .....	3	3	1	2
Poor.....	22	19	3	6
Fair.....	41	41	29	27
Good .....	33	37	58	58
Excellent .....	1	--	9	7
Onions				
Very poor .....	3	2	--	2
Poor.....	6	6	--	5
Fair.....	24	28	4	16
Good .....	62	59	95	68
Excellent .....	5	5	1	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	22	27	2	6
Poor.....	42	28	4	11
Fair.....	27	31	20	23
Good .....	8	13	64	51
Excellent .....	1	1	10	9
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor .....	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	5	5	3	3
Fair.....	17	13	30	16
Good .....	53	55	47	59
Excellent .....	23	25	20	22
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Very poor .....	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	7	7	2	1
Fair.....	23	23	17	10
Good .....	56	56	67	76
Excellent .....	12	12	14	13
Sorghum				
Very poor .....	16	17	1	2
Poor.....	26	21	3	7
Fair.....	45	39	24	24
Good .....	9	20	59	60
Excellent .....	4	3	13	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor .....	5	1	--	--
Poor.....	9	4	1	2
Fair.....	24	22	11	14
Good .....	52	60	82	71
Excellent .....	10	13	6	13
Sunflowers				
Very poor .....	7	7	--	--
Poor.....	28	24	--	3
Fair.....	46	47	20	24
Good .....	19	21	66	63
Excellent .....	--	1	14	10
Livestock				
Very poor .....	3	3	--	--
Poor.....	8	7	3	2
Fair.....	35	33	5	12
Good .....	46	50	78	75
Excellent .....	8	7	14	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero